



## New Horizons - Guidance for Applicants, 2025

Thank you for considering becoming a host organisation for a BMAA New Horizons Build a Plane project. This is an exciting and important project for the BMAA as it works to inspire the next generation of pilots and engineers.

This guide sets out the basic requirements that a host must be able to demonstrate they meet before being awarded a New Horizons project.

Please read through carefully and consider how your application can fulfil the requirements.

### Host and Aims

The New Horizons project is aimed at promoting microlight aviation and aviation engineering skills to young people. We recommend that the builders should be aged between 14 and 25 years, and so the host organisation should cater for this age range.

The build must provide educational value within a structured course or as part of a syllabus or learning activities.

**The host must develop an activity and learning plan with aims, objectives and measures of success which will be used throughout the build, and which will have to be approved by the BMAA before the project is agreed.**

### Timing

It is the intention of the BMAA that the young people building the aircraft will see the project through from start to finish. Hosts should plan to make sufficient time available to achieve this aim. As a guide, a single builder may take 350+ hours to complete the construction. Although obviously for some parts of the build having more hands will reduce the time taken, hosts should not underestimate the time that will have to be allocated to the build.

**The BMAA will expect to see a timetable with key project milestones (4 months) showing how time will be allocated to achieve the build within the overall scope of the project.**

**The BMAA will arrange regular monitoring visits which will either take place online or face to face. In these monitoring sessions the key milestones will be reviewed and evaluated to ensure the host organisation is on track to deliver the project.**

## People

The leaders within the host organisation are responsible for the success of the project.

Therefore, at least one of the host's leaders should have experience of a similar build or have access to someone with that experience who is prepared to be involved throughout the build.

**The host will be asked to provide details of the nominated project leader and their relevant experience.**

Building an aircraft is a hands-on task, the construction itself is the core of the project. The team leader must be able to manage the group building the aircraft to ensure that the construction is correct and safe. We recommend that the build group should never exceed eight in number at any one time.

Each stage of the build must be thoroughly understood by the leader and the group, planned, carried out and recorded. The leader must be able to demonstrate correct use of tools and be responsible for overseeing their use by the group.

The leader will be expected to be able to follow a build manual without assistance and direct the group through each construction step. An example of a build manual can be downloaded using this [link](#).

**The leader must be able to demonstrate familiarity with the build manual and the principles of construction contained within it before the project is agreed by the BMAA.**

The aircraft build will be subject to "stage inspections" conducted by a BMAA Inspector approved for the build. The inspector will act independently of the builders and so will not qualify to provide continuous oversight or coaching. Where possible the BMAA encourages the inspector to keep fees and costs to a minimum, however the host is responsible for this cost.

## Documentation

The BMAA publishes a Technical Information Leaflet, TIL 039 AMATEUR BUILD KITS – PROCESS GUIDE, available from the BMAA website from this [link](#), which details the procedure for the construction of amateur built aircraft. The leaders within the host organisation must familiarise themselves with this document before the project is agreed. The BMAA Technical Office can give some assistance to the project's lead builder if required.

The leader must be able to demonstrate familiarity with this document before the project is agreed by the BMAA.

## Premises

The premises where the aircraft is to be built must be approved as fit for purpose before the project is agreed.

There must be sufficient indoor secure space to house the build at all stages. The premises do not have to be on an airfield as the aircraft can be transported to an airfield for all engine running and test flying.

Access to the premises between build periods must be strictly controlled.

Premises will be subject to an inspection before the project is agreed by the BMAA.

## Promotion and Marketing

Promoting the success of the project is a vital part of the project. It is essential that progress is shared to a wider audience and people are inspired by the build and its aims and objectives. Collaboration with other social media platforms and regular planned content is essential to engage with a wider audience.

## Finance

The aircraft will belong to the BMAA throughout the build. From the point of delivery until the point of first engine run it is the host's responsibility to insure the aircraft or otherwise ensure that the BMAA suffers no financial loss, if the aircraft or any parts are lost or damaged however incurred. This must be agreed in writing before the project is agreed.

The BMAA will be financially responsible for the kit prior to delivery and the completed aircraft from the point when the first engine run is to be conducted.

The value of the kit varies slightly between models, but will be in the region of £60,000

## Completion

Following completion, the aircraft will be test flown by a BMAA appointed test pilot. When approved, if possible, the builders will be invited to experience a flight in the aircraft. It will then be sold by the BMAA to fund other projects and be re-invested.

Thank you for your interest in this exciting project.

## What Next?

Having read the guidance for applicants the Host organisations decide to apply for the New Horizons project.

See the application questions below in the appendix 1, these are part of an online assessment which all hosts need to complete before the project application deadline.

To Apply online – [Click here](#)

Once your application has been received by the assessment panel you may / may not be invited to a selection interview where the assessment panel will ask questions based upon your online application to inform them of your suitability. This interview is an opportunity to really demonstrate your suitability for the project.

Successful host informed of outcome.

Aircraft kit delivered and handed over.

Project starts and the aircraft is built in 2 years.

## Appendix 1

7. What is the age range of the students and young people that will be involved with the New Horizons project?
8. How many students and young people do you envisage will be directly involved with the build and will benefit from this experience?
9. How many will be in the working group at each build session?
10. How do you plan to manage each group of students working on the build (the leader to student ratio)?
11. Explain how the New Horizons project will form part of the educational syllabus/curriculum/ plan for all those students young people involved.
12. Submit your outline teaching and learning plan with aims, objectives and measures of success which will be used throughout the build. Alternatively, this could be sent in via EMAIL if this is easier. If this is the case, please indicate below.
13. How much time each week will be devoted to the project, bearing in mind that a project is likely to take a single builder around 350 - 450 hours to construct? As a guide the Overall project should be complete within 18 months to 24 months.
14. Provide details of the individuals who will be managing and leading this project and their relevant experience.
15. Describe the building that will house the build and summarise tools and facilities available for construction.
16. Confirm that the building is only open during building sessions and that no part is open at any other time.
17. Please outline your strategy to engage with stakeholders and to promote the project on social media and which platforms you intend to use.
18. Please confirm and explain how arrangements have been agreed to cover any financial loss up to full value. The BMAA have a number of contacts who can help with insurance.